
WTO and Agriculture

What's at Stake for Hawaii?

Hawaii produces agricultural and fish products are exported worldwide. In 1997, the state's total cash receipts from farming reached \$483 million, while data for 1996 indicate that fish product shipments totaled \$64 million. These industries are important to Hawaii's economy. They create jobs on farms and at ports, and also support jobs in related sectors, such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing. In Hawaii, agricultural exports alone create an estimated 2,600 jobs.

Hawaii's agricultural exports were estimated at \$126 million in 1997. The top exports were:

- # fruits and preparations -- \$62.8 million
- # tree nuts -- \$13.2 million

World demand for agricultural, fish, and wood products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Hawaii's industries are to compete successfully for export opportunities in the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Hawaii Benefits from Trade Agreements

Hawaii is already benefitting from a number of trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of new market opportunities include:

- # Under the Uruguay Round, Hawaii benefits as Japan and other countries agreed to reduce tariffs for a wide range of processed products of interest to U.S. exporters.
- # The 1989 U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement all but eliminated tariffs on fish and seafood, helping to more than double U.S. exports from \$196 million to \$448 million. NAFTA helps U.S. exporters maintain their position as leading suppliers of fish and seafood products to Mexico.

